

Patent claims

1. A vehicle having an internal combustion engine and an axle carrier on which this is mounted, characterized in that the axle carrier (1) has on its top side (4) at least one protective lining (5).
2. The vehicle as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the lining (5) consists of a material provided with heat-insulating properties.
3. The vehicle as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the material of the lining (5) is equipped with sound-insulating properties.
4. The vehicle as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the material of the lining (5) consists of an elastomer-modified thermoplastic, preferably polyamide or polyurethane.
5. The vehicle as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the material of the lining (5) consists of two interconnected plastics, the one plastic exhibiting sound-insulating properties and the other plastic exhibiting heat-insulating properties.
6. The vehicle as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the plastic having the heat-insulating properties is disposed above the plastic having the sound-insulating properties.

7. The vehicle as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that the lining (5) covers a track control arm opening (10) in the axle carrier.
8. The vehicle as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the lining (5) covers a spring control arm opening (11) in the axle carrier (1).
9. The vehicle as claimed in one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the lining (5) covers an interspace (12) between the axle carrier (1) and a longitudinal member of the vehicle, to which the axle carrier (1) is fastened.
10. The vehicle as claimed in one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that the lining covers a bearing (13) of the axle carrier (1) for an axle stabilizer.
11. The vehicle as claimed in one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the linings (5) of the individual cover points are joined together in one piece.
12. The vehicle as claimed in one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that the two longitudinal sides (3) of the axle carrier (1), extending parallel to the vehicle longitudinal axis, are fully covered by means of the lining (5), with the exception of the fastening points (8), for fastening to the longitudinal member, and the engine mount (2).

13. The vehicle as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the two lining portions covering the longitudinal sides (3) of the axle carrier (1) are joined together in such a way that they form a single component, the connecting portions fully covering the transverse bridges (9) of the axle carrier (1), which join its longitudinal sides (3).
14. The vehicle as claimed in one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that the lining (5), with the exception of the fastening points (6) for fastening the lining (5) to the axle carrier (1), is distanced from the latter by an air gap (14).
15. The vehicle as claimed in one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that the lining (5) is formed by a coating of the axle carrier (1).
16. The vehicle as claimed in one of claims 1 to 15, characterized in that the lining (5) is of skin-like configuration conforming to the contour of the top side (4) of the axle carrier (1).
17. The vehicle as claimed in one of claims 1 to 15, characterized in that air chambers are formed on the top side of the lining (5).
18. The vehicle as claimed in one of claims 1 to 17, characterized in that at points of covered openings (10, 11)

in the axle carrier (1), on a circular surface, the lining (5) is provided with diametrical slots (15), the slotted leaves (16) which are hereupon formed being of resiliently elastic configuration.